

Oberlin man has many talents making crafts

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

He sits in the kitchen with a tool in one hand and a sheet of little plastic grids in the other, cutting the little squares into a pattern.

The pattern will then be put together by his wife with yarn and decorations to make a boot, that can be hung on the wall to hold scissors, pencils or anything that the craft buyer wants to use it for.

This is not the only craft that Jerald and Elaine Leitner work on in their home in Oberlin. It just happens to be the one they were making one afternoon. The Leitners, although modest about their talents, are able to make many, many things with their hands.

An item Mr. Leitner has been working on a lot lately is a clock made out of a glass plate, numbers, hands and a piece of fabric. He got the idea while they were in Texas last year.

Mr. Leitner said that every winter, they travel to Texas and while there, they come up with new crafts. One of their friends was making plates which looked like they had a picture painted on them. The plate wasn't painted, though, Mr. Leitner said; instead it had a piece of fabric attached to the back of the plate so that the print is visible through to the front.

He said that he saw this idea and when they got back home, he thought that he could make clocks out of the idea. He has since made over 50.

Although he said that he has mastered the project, he doesn't want to share how he makes the craft.

"It is probably a craft that can only sell for a couple of years before others start making them," he said.

He said that he can make them with any picture. Mrs. Leitner said that it all started with wolf pictures, which their kids love, and now he has clocks and plates with everything from a Denver Bronco picture to a John Deere tractor on them.

"If I had a bigger house when he brought a new one in, I would want to keep that one, too," said Mrs. Leitner.

Now they have only one clock with two gray wolves hanging in their living area.

While Mr. Leitner is busy making the clocks and plates, Mrs. Leitner makes pillows out of the same material.

Mr. Leitner said that after the Christmas craft show at The Gateway, he had some-

one ask for a clock made out of a certain fabric. He said that he can do this if the person supplies the fabric.

Part of doing crafts is getting them out to sell, he said.

Not only have they participated in the craft show here, but they also went to Herndon this year and the clocks and plates are for sale in the basement of Stanley Hardware.

The price is based on how much time Mr. Leitner spends making the item, the cost of materials and some profit. The ones at Stanley range from \$24 to \$26 for a clock and \$14 to \$16 for a plate.

Each one takes about half a day, he said, but with the recent cold weather he hasn't been making as many of the clocks because the shop has been cold.

Mrs. Leitner also makes little bird houses and angel ornaments. He makes little rocking chairs and crosses from clothes pins.

Their house shows that in the past they have come back with many ideas down in Texas, including different



JERALD LEITNER USES a special tool to cut out little plastic boots for his wife. Mr. Leitner makes several crafts including the clock on the table next to him. — Staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

types of woodwork, butterflies and many others.

"I am anxious to see what is new when we go this year," said Mr. Leitner. "I can't sit around the house all the time. I have to be doing something."

The Leitners are originally from the Herndon/Traer area and have three grown children. Mr. Leitner said that he sold John Deere tractors until he retired.

City council suggests change in insurance to cut back on taxes

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin City Council discussed changing their employee insurance Thursday night, so that they could bring property taxes in the city down.

In a previous meeting the council decided to appoint Councilmen Jerry Fidele and Stan McEvoy to look at insurance options for the new year. In April it will be time for the council to renew if they choose to with Blue Shields/Blue Cross.

Currently the city pays for the employee and the family's insurance. A few months ago talks began about a possible change in the plan. The money that is used to pay for the insurance is taken from the property tax.

Mr. McEvoy said that he thought they needed to make a decision soon so that employees could know what will change. He said that he and Mr. Fidele met and he said that he thought one option would be to get rid of the obstetrics part of the plan, since most of the employees are through their child bearing age, but this wasn't an option with their insurance company.

In an employee survey, workers said that the worse thing the council could do is change the company and the second was to go to a higher deductible.

Another suggestion from Mr. McEvoy was to do a cost/share for the family and do a 50/50 split for the spouse and family. What this would mean is that the city would still pay for the employee and then the city would pay half of the family and the spouse. He said that this change would allow for a \$35,000 to \$40,000 in savings. For each family insurance plan it would save the city around \$230 which the employee would pay.

Mayor Charles Frickey said that in the past they had talked about making a change and then giving each employee a net increase which would then cover the amount that the employee would have to pay.

Mr. Fidele agreed with the idea that Mr. McEvoy suggested on making it a

cost/share deal.

Councilman Marvin Machett said that their city employees probably considered that benefit package when they took the job and now they have workers who are tenured and they can't take the benefits away from them.

"If we lose them now because of a decision how does that pay off?" asked Mr. Machett.

Mr. McEvoy said that if they did what the mayor suggested then there wouldn't be any initial shock. Mayor Frickey said that he knew that it wouldn't be an easy decision, but that everyone should give it some serious thought.

The council has done a good job with its fiscal responsibility, said Mr. Machett, including paying cash for the bucket truck recently bought. He said that they have also been able to cut back on some full time employees and change some salaries. He said that they need to look at all the options including insurance, but that also to remember that part of the reason there is a tax increase because people voted to get rid of the intangible tax.

Although the voters may have made up their minds about the intangible tax, Mr. McEvoy said the council needs to try to give people a break with their taxes which goes to pay for this insurance.

Councilwoman Leslie Bartels said that it is important to keep the infrastructure up and she said she sees the employees as part of that.

In the end the council decided that they would look into changing health care so that the city would pay all of the employee's health care and then half of the family plan. They would do this for the existing 17 full-time employees and then if they hired new ones they would only pay for the employee. This would show that decline in the property tax.

The council didn't make any decisions and they agreed that it would be on the agenda for next meeting on Jan. 20.

No-till conferences deadline is Monday

The early registration deadline for the Kansas Crop Residue Management Alliance sponsored conference "No-till on the Plains" is Monday.

The conference will be held at the Bicentennial Center in Salina starting at 1 p.m. on Jan. 22 and will end the following day at 4:30 p.m.

Early registration is \$50 if it is in before Monday and \$60 at the door. This year, anyone who registers early may bring their spouse for free.

The two days will cover all aspects of no-till farming and will have two featured speakers.

The first one will be Dean A. Martins, who will talk at 1 p.m. on Monday. He is from Tuscon and is a soil special-

ist who has done most of his work in Iowa. Mr. Martins work is focused on nitrogen and carbon under different tillage systems.

The other featured speaker is Dewayne Beck, who will speak at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Mr. Beck is from the Dakota Lake Research Farm in Pierre, S.D. He will talk about no-till as a systems approach, using crop rotation, stacking and crop sanitation.

To register for the conference send money to No-till on the Plains 2001, Box 236, McPherson, Kan., 67460-0236.

For information on the conference look on the internet at www.residue.org.

Everyone is welcome to meeting Thursday

The first public meeting for the countywide strategic plan will be held tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at The Gateway, sponsored by the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the corporation, said that everyone is welcome to attend and would like people to come prepared with ideas for the county. She said that the information that is gathered at the meeting will then be compiled into a priority list for the strategic plan.

The plan is needed so that the county can apply for federal and state grants. Decatur County hasn't had a strategic

plan published since 1990. Although there was a committee working on one in 1996 it wasn't finished.

Ms. Grafel said that at the meeting they will organize a committee which will work on the plan and the priorities. This is only the first of a number of meetings which will be held for the plan.

For those people who can't attend Ms. Grafel has asked that if they have ideas on what people see as strengths and weaknesses here, what they want here for the future or other things they would like to see in the community to please write to her at 1 Morgan Drive.

Two more applicants for commissioner seat

Two more men said that they were interested in the 3rd District County Commission seat last week.

Larry Smith and Don Roe sent in their information, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn. This means there are six who are interested in the appointment. Those who had said they were interested in the seat vacated by the death of Commissioner Bob Glenn are, Patricia Glenn, Councilmen Jerry Fidele and Stan McEvoy and Doyle Fredrickson.

County Committee members for the townships that commission seat represents were scheduled to appoint a person. Precinct committee members include Todd Tompkins, Dolores Koerperich and Ken Morgan.

Legally the meeting can be closed to the public.

After the precinct members make a decision Mrs. Horn will send the name into Topeka so the governor can make the final appointment.

AUCTION

Tuesday, January 16, 2001 • 10:00 a.m.

SALE LOCATION: 1 Block West of Penn Avenue at vacant lot on West Hall Street, Oberlin, Kansas

SELLERS: ROLLIE AND KARON SCOTT

Auctioneer's Note: Due to health reasons, Rollie and Karon are selling their farm equipment at auction. This is the cleanest, best maintained equipment you will ever have a chance to buy at auction. This equipment is as clean as the day it was new.

TRACTORS - LOADERS - DOZER			
 1993 John Deere 4760, 3-pt., triple hydraulics, front & rear weights, no water in tires, new Firestone deep tread tires inside w/ bolt on duals, 3231 hrs., always shedded	 1982 John Deere 4640 Quad range, good rubber duals, 3-pt., triple hydraulics, 4403 hrs., always shedded, looks and runs like new	 Ford 5000 Diesel, 3-pt., live power, new overhaul, new paint, new tires, P.S., new Westendorf loader P.S. TA 26, looks and runs like new. Tractor and loader selling together	 John Deere STX38 riding tractor mower hydro, like new Other dozer angle 12 4640 mounts, dozer will sell separate, then tied back with 4640 tractor, selling with highest bid
TRUCKS	MACHINERY	ANTIQUES	TRAILERS
 1975 Chevrolet C60 truck, P.S., 4x2 trans., 350 engine, 20,600 actual miles, 9.00x20 tires, Parkhurst all steel box w/ rollover tarp	 (2) Quinstar Followmasters, 32' w/ Quinstar treaders (1 of these is like new)	 John Deere 1-1/2 hp engine, Model E w/ lighter and mag. Fairbanks Morse 1-1/2 hp Z style D engine	 Flat bed trailer, heavy duty axles, 20', 8 bolt wheels, steel floor Flat bed trailer, 19' dual wheels, box tips Two-wheel pickup box trailer
 1961 Chevrolet truck, 261 engine, 4x2 trans., 35,000 actual miles, Tradewind box, steel sides	 Ford 6-18" on land plow w/ buster bar model #155, serial WN14764	 2-Section IHC 150 grain drills 10-10's, always shedded	 Assorted wheels and tires Dempster pump jack (7) New sheets 9' corrugated metal Metal folding chairs (8) 1x12's, 16' long Assortment of lumber Lots of 1" Black plastic pipe Sump pump, Airmaster grain fan Homelite pump Headache rack for 79 Ford pickup Hydraulic cylinders MTD push lawn mower Milo guards, Several log chains Garden hose
 1993 Chevrolet heavy-duty 3/4 ton, 350 engine, 4-wheel drive, 5-speed	 Flex King 5x5 sweeps w/ new blades and treaders New set 6-18" plow lays, later model Ford, Case, White Blue Jet 7 shank ripper, like new Krause 24" chisel plow Crustbuster TS 33x10 3200, 26' trash shank drill, always shedded John Deere DRA 16-10 green box grain drill Sunflower 16" disc Crustbuster 24"	 (2) Drill hill augers Drag auger for 3300 Bu. bin (2) New Followmaster tires and wheels (16) New Followmaster sweeps 1/2 set Quinstar treader wheels Ford plow, 3-pt., 2-bottom 3-pt. 1-row Lister	 Stroberg cattle chute w/ panels for 75 cows Stock tank, 4', like new Assorted wood posts Mapes-O-Matic cattle sprayer P.T.O. Wire roller Lots of new 6" T-Posts Cattle oiler 4-Rolls corn cribbing
 1948 Ford F-6, 4x2 Trans., over-head valve engine, Obeco all wood box w/hoist	 Speed King 6' PTO 53" auger Auger hopper Speed King 6' Briggs & Stratton 34' auger	LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT Assorted power tools Assortment nails, Pipe wrenches (45) Cement blocks, Trash cans	
<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="font-size: 2.5em; margin: 0;">Johnson Realty, Inc.</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">ROBERTA JOHNSON, BROKER LYNN A. JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE BROKER/AUCTIONEER</p> <h3 style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">109 North Wolf Oberlin, Kansas 67749</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.9em; margin: 0;">Call Roberta or Lynn A. Johnson for listings, or information 785-475-2785 - Mobile 785-475-8514 LYNN A. JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE BROKER/AUCTIONEER ROBERTA JOHNSON, BROKER JACQUELINE VOTAPKA, SALESPERSON JOE D. GREEN, SALESPERSON/AUCTIONEER ROGER EMIGH, SALESPERSON/AUCTIONEER RANDY OSTMEYER, SALESPERSON</p> </div>			

